



U.S. Department of the Interior | Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Agriculture | Forest Service

Sawtooth National Forest
2647 Kimberly Road East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Bureau of Land Management
Challis Field Office
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, Idaho 83226

Dear Interested Party,

We are writing to let you know about an opportunity to provide input on the Hemingway-Boulders and White Clouds Wilderness Management Plan. The Sawtooth National Forest (SNF) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Challis Field Office have developed a draft Plan. We wanted to provide you with some background information, and information on how you can be involved in this planning process.

Background

On August 7, 2015 President Obama approved the *Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act* (Public Law 114-46), which included the designation of three new wilderness areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the Hemingway-Boulders and White Clouds Wilderness areas. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM cooperatively administer the White Clouds Wilderness. The USFS fully administers the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness.

The Wilderness Act, signed into law in 1964, established the National Wilderness Preservation System for protection of federal lands. The Act provides the overriding mandate to each agency to preserve wilderness character. Wilderness management plans are developed using the sideboards of the Wilderness Act, the enabling legislation for an area, in this case the *Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act*, and agency regulation and policy. A wilderness management plan guides the preservation, management, and use of wilderness to ensure it is unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

The enabling Public Law 114-46 requires, in Section 102(c), the USFS and the BLM to develop wilderness management plans no "later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act." In fulfillment of this requirement, the BLM and USFS are initiating development of a Wilderness Management Plan for the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness and the White Clouds Wilderness. (Please note that the planning process for the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness is occurring separately). The Wilderness Management Plan for these two areas will provide management guidance for the BLM and USFS in decisions affecting these wilderness areas. The primary planning purposes are to:

- provide management direction for the preservation of wilderness character by identifying the conditions and opportunities that will be managed for within the wilderness areas,
- develop clear wilderness management objectives, and the actions by which these objectives will be achieved, and
- provide opportunities for interested publics and partners to give input and engage in the planning direction.

Prior to the wilderness designation, management of 99 percent of these two wilderness areas was as "recommended wilderness" under the Sawtooth Forest Plan. This means that management

direction and visitor use restrictions were in place from that management scenario, and formed the starting point for the interdisciplinary team to consider as management direction.

Public Involvement Opportunity

For this scoping period, those who are interested may review the draft plan and provide comments by **January 5, 2017**. To access the draft plan, or for more information on the planning process, the wilderness areas, and interactive maps, please visit the interagency project website at <http://arcg.is/28Z6RVo>. Within this interagency site, you may access the link to the project website for the USFS, or the BLM project site on the ePlanning NEPA Register. Both agencies provide project information on their respective sites, but the documents are the same on both sites. You may also request hard copies or CDs containing the document by contacting the Sawtooth National Forest Office at 208-737-3200.

In order to make comments, you may use one of three methods:

- Send an email to: comments-intermtn-sawtooth-nra@fs.fed.us. Please indicate "Wilderness Plan" in the subject line. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.docx).
- Send a hardcopy letter to Sawtooth National Forest, 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

When responding during this scoping period, please provide comments that specifically focus on the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness and/or the White Clouds Wilderness. The Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness is being considered in a separate planning process. Comments that can be used in the analysis for the plan and proposed action may include:

- A proposed action or issue that hasn't been included, but you believe should be.
- Support or reinforcement for a proposed action or issue described.
- Changes to proposed actions that you recommend and why you recommend them.
- An action you would suggest removing from the document and why you recommend it.
- Recommend a reasonable alternative, or provide additional information, data, or analysis that can be used when the agencies consider impacts of alternatives.

Comments that cannot be used in the analysis may include:

- Stating that you are in favor or against an action without giving a reason.
- Only agreeing or disagreeing with agency policy.
- Not providing justification or supporting data.
- Information not pertaining to the planning area.
- Vague, open-ended questions.

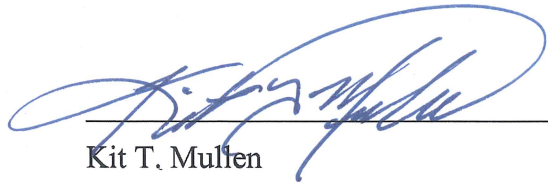
The BLM and USFS will also offer three public open-house meetings during the scoping period:

- Challis, Idaho: December 5th, 5-7 p.m. at the Forest Service Office, 311 N. US Hwy 93.
- Stanley, Idaho: December 6th, Noon-2 p.m. at the Stanley Community Center, Hwy 21.
- Ketchum, Idaho: December 6th, 5-7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 220 Cottonwood Street.

Following the scoping period, the USFS and BLM will revise the Wilderness Management Plan based on scoping input and will develop an environmental assessment. Subsequently, the revised Plan and environmental assessment will be provided for public comment; anticipated for summer 2017.

Thank you for your interest in wilderness planning for these special areas. We appreciate you taking the time to review and comment on the document. Your perspective and input is invaluable as we develop the management plan to guide the future of these two wilderness areas.

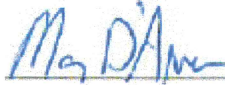
Sincerely,



Kit T. Multen

Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor

11/21/2016
Date



Mary D'Aversa

BLM, Idaho Falls District Manager

11/20/2016
Date